



**General Assembly
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**General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East**

**Security Council
Sixty-third year**

**Identical letters dated 4 April 2008 from the Permanent
Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations from 8 to 31 March 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nawaf Salam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the identical letters dated 4 April 2008 from the
Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

**Subject: Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from
8 to 31 March 2008**

Air violations

On 8 March 2008, between 1845 hours and 2100 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b and circled over the southern regions. It departed over Rumaysh.

On 9 March 2008, between 0800 hours and 0830 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew al-Naqurah.

Between 1500 hours and 1730 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft intermittently overflew the Tibnin area.

Between 1650 hours and 1730 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft intermittently overflew the Tibnin and al-Naqurah areas at very high altitude.

On 11 March 2008, between 0001 hours and 0100 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah and circled over the sea between Damur and Sidon. It departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

Between 1025 hours and 1130 hours, six enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh in a northerly direction as far as Tripoli and circled over all Lebanese regions. They departed over al-Naqurah.

Between 1825 hours and 2100 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the occupied Shab'a farmlands in a northerly direction as far as Rayak and circled between Rayak and Baalbek. It then headed south and departed over al-Naqurah.

At 2137 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre in a northerly direction as far as Rayak and circled between Rayak and Baalbek. It then headed south and departed over the sea off Tyre on 12 March 2008 at 0220 hours.

On 12 March 2008, between 0715 hours and 1150 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre in a north-easterly direction as far as Rayak and circled between Rayak and Baalbek. It then headed south and departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 0900 hours and 0940 hours, four enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the occupied Shab'a farmlands in a northerly direction as far as Beirut and circled between Beirut and the South. They departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 1730 hours and 2210 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b in a north-easterly direction as far as Rayak and circled between Rayak and Baalbek, and then between Damur and Tyre. It departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

On 13 March 2008, between 0300 hours and 0700 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft intermittently overflew the Bint Jubayl and Naqurah areas.

Between 1110 hours and 1128 hours, two enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Kila as far as Shikka. They then returned in a southerly direction and departed over Rumaysh.

Between 1200 hours and 1325 hours, two Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b and circled between Beirut and the South over sea and land. They departed over Rumaysh.

On 15 March 2008, between 1630 hours and 1700 hours, two enemy Israeli military aircraft overflew the town of Kafr Shuba and the occupied Sha'ba farmlands at very high altitude.

Between 2300 hours and 2350 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tibnin area.

On 16 March 2008, between 0020 hours and 0130 hours, an enemy Israeli helicopter overflew Lebanese territorial waters off al-Naqurah.

On 17 March 2008 between 0945 hours and 1015 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Naqurah area.

On 18 March 2008 between 1215 hours and 1230 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the western Bekaa region.

Between 1730 hours and 1745 hours an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Jabal al-Rayhan area at high altitude.

Between 1950 hours and 2010 hours an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew Jabal al-Rayhan.

On 19 March 2008, between 0645 hours and 1000 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tibnin and al-Naqurah areas at low altitude.

Between 1259 hours and 1343 hours, four enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh and circled over all Lebanese areas. They departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

Between 1819 hours and 1830 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft overflew Lebanese territorial waters off Ras al-Naqurah.

On 21 March 2008, between 0825 hours and 1130 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew Jabal al-Rayhan.

Between 1000 hours and 1110 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft intermittently overflew the Bint Jubayl area at very high altitude.

Between 1445 hours and 1620 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft intermittently overflew the Bint Jubayl area. At the same time, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew Jabal al-Rayhan.

Between 1740 hours and 1900 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the al-Nabatiyah area.

At 2255 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl area. They departed on 22 March 2008 at 0040 hours.

On 22 March 2008, between 1610 hours and 1720 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Kafr Shuba area and Jabal al-Rayhan.

Between 2200 hours and 2300 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the al-Naqurah area.

On 23 March 2008, between 1005 hours and 1035 hours, four enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over al-Naqurah and circled between Beirut and the South. They departed over Rumaysh.

Between 1030 hours and 1100 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the al-Naqurah area.

Between 1630 hours and 1700 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft overflew the al-Naqurah area. At the same time, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew al-Naqurah and Bint Jubayl.

On 24 March 2008, between 1017 hours and 1025 hours, two enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tripoli in a southerly direction as far as Shikka. They departed over the sea off Tripoli.

On 25 March 2008, between 1030 hours and 1430 hours, Israeli military aircraft overflew the al-Naqurah, Tibnin and Bint Jubayl areas at very high altitude.

On 27 March 2008, between 1100 hours and 1130 hours, two enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh in a northerly direction as far as al-Batrun and circled over all Lebanese regions. They departed over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Between 1145 hours and 1230 hours, two enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Yarun in a northerly direction as far as Damur and circled over Damur and al-Na'imah. They departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

On 28 March 2008, between 1050 hours and 1215 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the al-Naqurah area.

On 30 March 2008, between 1430 hours and 1710 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl area.

At 1742 hours and at 1754 hours, two enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah in the direction of Beirut as far as Damur and circled over the sea between Damur and Sidon. They departed at 1950 hours over the sea off al-Naqurah.

Between 1930 hours and 2015 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre in an easterly direction and circled over the sea off Tyre. It departed over al-Naqurah.

On 31 March 2008, between 2115 hours and 2140 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the al-Naqurah area.

Sea violations

On 16 March 2008, at 1819 hours, in the open sea in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine, an enemy Israeli military launch shone a searchlight in the direction of Lebanese territorial waters for five minutes.

On 17 March 2008, at 0730 hours, an enemy Israeli Sa'ar 5 military vessel was observed by the Italian vessel Bettica to be in violation of Lebanese territorial waters three miles from the line of buoys heading out of Lebanese territorial waters at 290 degrees.

On 20 March 2008, at 0000 hours, in the open sea in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ras al-Naqurah, an enemy Israeli military launch shone a searchlight in the direction of Lebanese territorial waters for five seconds.

On 22 March 2008, at 1824 hours, in the open sea off Ras al-Naqurah, an enemy Israeli military launch shone a searchlight in the direction of Lebanese territorial waters.

On 24 March 2008, between 0020 hours and 0100 hours, in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ras al-Naqurah, an enemy Israeli military launch shone a searchlight in the direction of Lebanese territorial waters.

On 25 March 2008, at 1829 hours, in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ras al-Naqurah, an enemy Israeli military launch shone a searchlight in the direction of Lebanese territorial waters.

On 31 March 2008, at 0415 hours, a vessel belonging to the Israeli enemy violated Lebanese territorial waters as far as approximately 300 metres north of the line of buoys for two minutes. It then left Lebanese regional waters.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 13 March 2008, between 0945 hours and 1015 hours, Israeli farmers used a hose to pump water from inside occupied Palestinian territory into Lebanese territory on the outskirts of the town of Mays al-Jabal.

On 14 March 2008, between 1400 hours and 1500 hours, Israeli farmers used a pump to pump water from inside occupied Palestinian territory into Lebanese territory on the outskirts of the town of Mays al-Jabal.

On 15 March 2008, between 0830 hours and 0845 hours, inside occupied Palestinian territory in the vicinity of the Israeli enemy's Jabal Bu Dajaj position (across from the town of Ramiya), two Merkava tanks were spotted, one of which was aiming its cannon in the direction of the town. At 0845 hours a Hummer jeep stopped near an Israeli enemy position across from Jabal Balat-Marwahin. Some people disembarked and assumed combat positions while using binoculars to observe Lebanese territory for 15 minutes.

On 17 March 2008, between 1045 hours and 1145 hours, inside occupied Palestinian territory, farmers pumped water into Lebanese territory on the outskirts of the town of Mays al-Jabal in the Tufah area along the border.

On 18 March 2008, between 0630 hours and 0800 hours, inside occupied Palestinian territory, farmers pumped water into Lebanese territory outside the town of Mays al-Jabal in the Tufah area along the border.

At 1904 hours, enemy Israeli forces shone a searchlight mounted on a vehicle near its position north of Zar'it barracks in the direction of the Ramiya triangle and the Tarbikha gate inside Lebanese territory for 30 seconds.

On 20 March 2008, at 2253 hours, an enemy Israeli patrol consisting of two Hummer vehicles shone one of the vehicle's searchlights in the direction of a Lebanese Army position at Mays al-Jabal.

On 26 March 2008, at 0714 hours, an enemy Israeli bulldozer and trench-digger, accompanied by two Hummer vehicles, passed through a gate in the technical strip opposite the occupied town of al-Ghajar in the direction of the water pump on the Wazzani River on a dirt road separating the occupied from the liberated area. At 1200 hours, a second trench-digger arrived and the two began to dig and dispose of dirt in the Lebanese side of the occupied town of al-Ghajar opposite a Spanish UNIFIL contingent position at al-Wazzani. At 1535 hours, they departed in the direction of the occupied town of al-Ghajar.

On 27 March 2008, at 1930 hours, from inside occupied Palestinian territory across from the town of Rumaysh, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight in the direction of the Lebanese Army's position along the Rumaysh fence for one and a half minutes.

On 28 March 2008, between 1900 hours and 2200 hours, the Israeli enemy intermittently shone a searchlight in the direction of Lebanese territory, from the Tayyarat outpost inside occupied Palestinian territory across from the town of Yarus.

On 29 March 2008, at 0815 hours, while travelling on the 'Adayssah-Kafr Kila highway, an enemy Israeli patrol consisting of two Hummer vehicles with the rear vehicle towing a road-sweeper stopped in front of a house under construction belonging to citizen Muhammad Husayn Hamad of Kafr Kila. A soldier in the vehicles directed insults at two Lebanese workers, Husayn Hasan Sulayman and Ahmad Muhammad Shit, both residents of the aforementioned town working on the aforementioned house. The patrol aimed and cocked their weapons at the two in spite of the fact that they had done nothing at all. The patrol then proceeded on its way.

On 21 March 2008, at 1110 hours, an enemy Israeli patrol crossed the Blue Line five metres into Lebanese territory south of the town of al-Labunah in order to position a GPS device to determine border points. It departed at 1140 hours.

Other activities

On 26 March 2008, at 1059 hours, on the outskirts of Rumaysh-Wadi Qatmun, an enemy Israeli trench-digger and wheeled bulldozer accompanied by two Merkava tanks crossed the technical line without crossing the Blue Line, and worked on levelling an old military road formerly used by enemy forces. They departed at 1210 hours.



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Sixty-third year**

**Identical letters dated 4 April 2008 from the Permanent
Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical table of Israeli air, sea and land violations during the month of March 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nawaf Salam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the identical letters dated 4 April 2008 from the
Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

Statistical table showing Israeli violations during March 2008

<i>Air violations</i>				<i>Land violations</i>				<i>Previous month's</i>	
<i>Military jet</i>	<i>Reconnaissance</i>	<i>Helicopter</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sea violations</i>	<i>Military acts of aggression</i>	<i>Field violations</i>	<i>Breaches</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Overall total violations</i>
				Crossing of territorial waters, and firing of automatic-weapons rounds, flares and flare shells over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important posts, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, launching of flare bombs, dropping of artillery shells, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and display of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory		
27	37	1	65	8	—	11	10	21	94
								69	

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**General Assembly**

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Sixty-second session**Agenda item 113 (d)****Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of fifteen members of the Human Rights Council****Letter dated 26 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Spain has presented its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2008-2011, at the elections to be held on 16 May 2008, during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

Attached hereto is a copy of the document on voluntary pledges and commitments made by the Government of Spain, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex). We should be grateful if you would have it circulated to Member States.

(Signed) Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo

Annex to the letter dated 26 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Spanish]

Voluntary pledges and commitments made by Spain to the Human Rights Council in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251

I. International Contribution

1. International human rights instruments to which Spain is a State party and indications of intent to ratify further instruments or to withdraw reservations

Spain is a party to nearly all the United Nations human rights instruments and to most similar instruments within the United Nations system (in particular, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

In 2005, Spain ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In December 2007, Spain was the first country of the Group of Western European and Other States to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, having played a very active role in the negotiations on those instruments.

In 2007, Spain signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and it has initiated the corresponding ratification process. Spain also played an active role in the negotiations that culminated in the General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007.

2. Cooperation with special procedures

Spain has issued a standing invitation to all the special procedures established by the Human Rights Council. In recent years, Spain has received visits by the following special procedures:

- Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, 2003.
- Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, 2003.
- Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, 2006.
- In May 2008, Spain will receive a visit from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism.

Spain replies promptly to communications from Special Rapporteurs and follows up the recommendations they formulate after their visits.

3. Cooperation with treaty bodies

In February 2008, Spain submitted its fifth periodic report to the Committee against Torture. During the first half of 2008, Spain will submit its periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

In 2009, Spain will submit its periodic report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

4. Contribution to international initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights through the provision of human, technical and financial resources

Spain supports all international initiatives for the protection and promotion of human rights, including, in particular:

- In December 2006, Spain established a 528 million euro trust fund for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which administers it. Spain is thus attempting to achieve the Goals through an economic, social and cultural rights-based approach;
- Spain is the foremost contributor to the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG);
- In a special effort to combat discrimination on grounds of gender, Spain has become the second largest contributor to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM);
- Spain has promoted and fully supports the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, endorsed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as a forum for better understanding and dialogue among cultures and religions, which entails the promotion and protection of human rights;
- In October 2007, the Government of Spain adopted a National Plan of Action for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security;
- Spain fully supports the negotiation of a future instrument for the establishment of common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional weapons.

5. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and support for its activities

Between 2004 and 2007, Spain's voluntary contribution to the Office of the High Commissioner increased sixfold and it became one of the top five contributors to the Office's activities.

More than half the contribution is unearmarked and the rest is earmarked for field activities (including in Colombia, Guatemala, Bolivia, Haiti, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), thematic funds (protection of torture victims, indigenous populations, combating contemporary forms of slavery and the Special Fund for the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture) and other areas (special procedures, gender violence, persons with disabilities). In 2008, Spain

made a special contribution to the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

6. Commitment to fully support and engage constructively in the deliberations of the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, including the special procedures

Although Spain has not yet been a member of the Human Rights Council, it has actively contributed to the consolidation of the Council as the principal international forum for human rights issues. As a Council member, Spain will work to ensure that the Council's deliberations are informed by a constructive and cooperative spirit.

Together with Germany, Spain has proposed an initiative for the recognition of the right to drinking water and sanitation as a human right. All the relevant texts submitted thus far have been adopted by consensus and have drawn a large number of sponsors.

Spain is helping to finance the renovation of Conference Room XX of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, which would serve as the official meeting place of the Human Rights Council.

Spain fully supports the adoption of an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and is playing a constructive role in the negotiations taking place within the corresponding working group.

7. Commitment to open and constructive engagement in a robust universal review procedure, including reporting on measures taken to follow up its recommendations

Spain will submit its first report to the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council in 2010. The Spanish Government intends to develop an inclusive and transparent process for the preparation of the report, in cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsman, the National Human Rights Institution of Spain and non-governmental organizations active in this field.

II. National Contribution

1. Description of the national human rights policy, including information on national human rights planning, the existence of independent national human rights institutions and guarantees of effective remedies to redress human rights abuses, etc.

The 1978 Spanish Constitution sets out and guarantees the rights of its citizens and of all persons and establishes an independent judicial system responsible for protecting them from any form of violation or abuse. The Constitution further establishes an independent human rights institution, the Office of the Ombudsman, tasked with protecting the rights of all persons and monitoring Government actions in cooperation with regional delegates. The Ombudsman is appointed by Parliament, acts independently and does not receive instructions from any authority, in accordance with the Principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights (Paris Principles).

The Spanish Government has prepared a preliminary draft National Human Rights Plan of Action, which methodically sets out all government actions and public policies for the protection and promotion of human rights at both the domestic and foreign policy levels. Consultations on the draft Plan of Action are being held with the Ombudsman and civil society organizations, and it is scheduled for adoption in 2008 to coincide with the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Spain is a member of the Council of Europe and has ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and most of its Additional Protocols; thus, the rights of persons are effectively protected by regional oversight mechanisms, in particular, the European Court of Human Rights.

2. Identification of principal human rights challenges, as well as indication of steps to be taken to meet those challenges

The Spanish Government, aware of the challenges posed by the protection of human rights, has developed a set of public policies and promoted new legislation with a view to removing any obstacles to full and genuine equality of all citizens.

Laws adopted in this connection include:

- Gender Equality Act, aimed at eliminating all obstacles to genuine equality between men and women;
- Organic Act on Integral Measures for Protection against Gender Violence, aimed at protecting victims and offering them the necessary support;
- Self-Reliance Act, aimed at providing equal opportunities to those who are unable to look after themselves, and to their families;
- Gender Identity Act, eliminating all discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In addition, mandatory classes on civics and human rights have been introduced in the schools.

In order to rise to the challenges posed by an increasingly diverse Spanish society, new institutions have been established, including the:

- Spanish Observatory against Racism and Xenophobia, established in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action with a view to preventing acts of a racist nature;
- Council for the Promotion of Equal Treatment, aimed at promoting equality between nationals and immigrants;
- Foundation for Pluralism and Coexistence, which promotes inter-faith dialogue and mutual understanding;
- State Council of the Gypsy People, which recognizes the special situation of a people that has been living in Spain for centuries but is still experiencing integration problems.

Lastly, 2008 will witness the establishment of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture in Spain, pursuant to the obligations undertaken by Spain in ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel,

Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It also plans to adopt and implement a National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons.

3. Indication of approach to the contribution of civil society, including in the formulation and implementation of domestic human rights policy and programmes

The Government regularly consults civil society organizations in formulating public policies for the promotion of human rights. Two recent examples of this consultation process are:

- The National Human Rights Plan of Action. The Government shared its preliminary draft with civil society organizations. The Plan, to be adopted in 2008, will be finalized in a transparent and inclusive manner.
- Members of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture are being appointed in consultation and coordination with the National Human Rights Institution and with civil society organizations.

Additionally, civil society organizations have participated in the elaboration of a number of reports submitted to the human rights treaty bodies. Non-governmental organizations have access to funding from various government sources.

4. Pledge to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights

Spain will comply fully with its obligations under all the international instruments to which it is a party and will continue to uphold the highest standards in promoting and protecting the human rights of all persons under its jurisdiction. It will cooperate with other countries and international organizations in the promotion and protection of human rights the world over.

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**General Assembly
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Agenda item 20**

**Security Council
Sixty-third year**

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

**Letter dated 7 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith resolution 10/11-P(IS), entitled "The Aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan", adopted by the eleventh session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Dakar on 13 and 14 March 2008 (see annex I), and paragraph 43 of the Bucharest Summit Declaration, issued by the heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Bucharest on 3 April 2008 (see annex II).

Following the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 62/243), the Organization of the Islamic Conference and NATO also reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and called for the peaceful settlement of the conflict on the basis of the above-mentioned principles.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes were distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 20, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Agshin Mehdiyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex I to the letter dated 7 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

RESOLUTION NO. 10/11-P(IS)
ON
THE AGGRESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century), held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 6 to 7 Rabiul Awal 1429h (13-14 March 2008),

Proceeding from the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

Gravely concerned over the aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan which has resulted in the occupation of about 20 percent of the territories of Azerbaijan;

Expressing its profound concern over continued occupation of significant part of the territories of Azerbaijan and illegal transfer of settlers of the Armenian nationality to those territories;

Deeply distressed over the plight of more than one million Azerbaijani displaced persons and refugees resulting from the Armenian aggression and over magnitude and severity of these humanitarian problems;

Reaffirming all previous relevant resolutions and, in particular, the Resolution No. 21/10-P(IS), adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Putrajaya, from 20 to 21 Shaban, 1424H (16-17 October 2003);

Urging strict adherence to the Charter of the UN and full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

Welcoming all diplomatic and other efforts for the settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan;

Reaffirming commitment by all Member States to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

Noting also the destructive influence of the policy of aggression of the Republic of Armenia on the peace process within the OSCE framework;

Taking note of the Report of the Secretary General (Document No. OIC/ICPM-34/POL/SG-REP.6);

1. Strongly condemns the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan.
2. Considers the actions perpetrated against civilian Azerbaijani population in the occupied Azerbaijani territories as crimes against humanity.
3. Strongly condemns any looting and destruction of the archeological, cultural and religious monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.
4. Strongly demands the strict implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884, and the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied Azerbaijani territories including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and strongly urges Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
5. Expresses its concern that Armenia has not yet implemented demands contained in the above stated UN Security Council resolutions.
6. Calls on the UN Security Council to recognize the existence of aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan; to take the necessary steps under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to ensure compliance with its resolutions; to condemn and reverse aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and decides to take coordinated action to this end at the United Nations.
7. Urges all States to refrain from providing any supplies of arms and military equipment to Armenia, in order to deprive the aggressor of any opportunity to escalate the conflict and to continue the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories. The territories of the Member States should not be used for transit of such supplies.
8. Calls upon Member States, as well as other members of the international community, to use such effective political and economic measures as required in order to put an end to Armenian aggression and occupation of the Azerbaijani territories.
9. Calls for a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of respect for the principles of territorial integrity of states and inviolability of internationally recognized borders.
10. Decides to instruct the Permanent Representatives of Member States at the United Nations in New York, while voting at the UN General Assembly, to give full support to the issue of territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

11. Urges Armenia and all Member States of the OSCE Minsk Group to engage constructively in the ongoing OSCE peace process on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the relevant OSCE decisions and documents, including those of the First Additional Meeting of the OSCE Council of 24 March 1992, OSCE Summits of 5-6 December 1994, 2-3 December 1996, 18-19 November, 1999, and refrain from any action that will make it more difficult to reach a peaceful solution.
12. Expresses its full support for the three principles of the settlement of the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan contained in the statement of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office at the 1996 Lisbon OSCE Summit, namely the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, highest degree of self-rule of the Nagorno-Karabakh region within Azerbaijan and guaranteed security for this region and its whole population.
13. Stresses that fait accompli may not serve as a basis for a settlement, and that neither the current situation within the occupied areas of the Republic of Azerbaijan, nor any actions, including arranging voting process, undertaken there to consolidate the status quo, may be recognized as legally valid.
14. Demands to cease and reverse immediately the transfer of settlers of the Armenian nationality to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, which constitute a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and has a detrimental impact on the process of peaceful settlement of the conflict, and agrees to render its full support to the efforts of Azerbaijan undertaken to this end, including at the General Assembly of the United Nations, inter alia, through their respective Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York.
15. Requests the OIC Member States to encourage their legal and physical persons not to be engaged in economic activities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.
16. Expresses its support to the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group and consultations held at the level of the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia and its understanding that a step-by-step solution will help to ensure gradual elimination of the most serious consequences of the aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan.
17. Requests the Secretary General to communicate the principled and firm position of the OIC vis-à-vis the Armenian aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the current Chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

18. Reaffirms its total solidarity with and support for the efforts undertaken by the Government and people of Azerbaijan to defend their country.
19. Calls for enabling the displaced persons and refugees to return to their homes in safety, honour and dignity.
20. Expresses its appreciation to all Member States which have provided humanitarian assistance to the refugees and displaced persons and urges all the others to extend their contribution to these people.
21. Expresses its concern over the severity of humanitarian problems concerning the existence of more than one million displaced persons and refugees in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan and requests the OIC Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and other Islamic Institutions to render much needed financial and humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan.
22. Considers that Azerbaijan has the right for appropriate compensation with regard to damages it suffered as a result of the conflict and puts the responsibility for the adequate compensation of these damages on Armenia.
23. Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the 12th Islamic Summit Conference.

Annex II to the letter dated 7 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Bucharest Summit Declaration

Issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Bucharest on 3 April 2008

43. We are concerned with the persistence of regional conflicts in the South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova. Our nations support the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. We will continue to support efforts towards a peaceful settlement of these regional conflicts, taking into account these principles.



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Culture of peace

Promotion and protection of human rights

I have the honour to enclose, in my capacity as Chair of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Group in New York, a statement by the Group on the release of a defamatory film against Islam by a Dutch parliamentarian (see annex).

It is requested that the present letter kindly be issued as a document of the General Assembly under items 49 and 70 of the agenda.

(Signed) Munir Akram
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 2 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Organization of the Islamic Conference statement on the release of a defamatory film against Islam by a Dutch parliamentarian

The Organization of the Islamic Conference Group in New York condemns the release of the sacrilegious film by a Dutch parliamentarian about the Holy Koran and the Prophet Muhammad. This film distorts the peaceful message of Islam by selective and out-of-context quotations as well as biased interpretations of the verses of the Holy Koran. The film has evoked wide condemnation and reaction throughout the world, including by the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations as well as by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and various United Nations special rapporteurs.

Such insults and distortions of religions and the holy books cannot be justified on the pretext of freedom of opinion and expression. They undermine the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations to promote friendly relations among nations. The film violates articles 3 and 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that prohibit any advocacy of racial or religious hatred. The Organization of the Islamic Conference demands that the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in accordance with his/her renewed mandate, to report on instances in which the abuse of the right to freedom of expression constitutes an act of and incitement to racial or religious hatred and discrimination.

The film is an act of religious hatred and a racist and xenophobic attempt to advance a narrow political agenda. It could merely serve to disturb peace, stability and social harmony within and among States. For 1.3 billion Muslims around the world, it is an attempt to impede the enjoyment of the right to practise and manifest their religion without fear or coercion, particularly for those who live in non-Muslim countries. Despite this blatant provocation, Muslims have shown restraint and responsibility. However, recurrence of similar offences could spark wider anger, a matter that underlines the need for a joint commitment to show sensitivity and respect for the religion and beliefs of others in accordance with international law.

The Dutch Government is urged to initiate legal action on the implications of the release of the film in accordance with its national and international obligations. The Organization of the Islamic Conference Group also urges all concerned parties to exert their efforts to prevent further dissemination of this provocative film, and the repetition of defamatory actions offending Muslims, that could undermine the ongoing efforts to promote peaceful coexistence, based on understanding of and tolerance and respect for and among religions and civilizations.